

## Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /092 W  
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R 071145Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 384

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0058

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJ: GSL BANS ANURADHAPURA SATYAGRAHA

REF COLOMBO 3134

1. GSL CREATED NEW EMERGENCY REGULATION 5 JAN UNDER WHICH GOVERNMENT HAS BANNED UNP'S PLANS TO ENGAGE IN FULL MOON POYA DAY SATYAGRAHA DEMONSTRATION IN ANURADHAPURA ON JAN 8. REGULATION EMPOWERS SECRETARY OF MDFA TO BAN PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS THAT MAY: (A) LEAD TO DISTURBANCES OF PUBLIC ORDER, OR (B) HAMPER GOVERNMENT'S FOOD PRODUCTION CAMPAIGN, OR (C) INTERFERE WITH PUBLIC'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OR ASSEMBLY, OR (D) DISTURB PERSONS ENGAGED IN OBSERVANCE OR PRACTICE OF THEIR RELIGION.

2. PERSONS NOT COMPLYING WITH BAN MAY, AFTER CONVICTION FOLLOWING TRAIL BY A MAGISTRATE, BE LIABLE TO SENTENCE OF UP TO FIVE YEARS' RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT, OR TO FINE NOT EXCEEDING TWO THOUSAND RUPEES, OR BOTH. SUCH PERSONS WILL ALSO BE LIABLE TO FORFEIT ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TO THE STATE. IN ENFORCING BAN, POLICE ARE AUTHORIZED TO ARREST INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT WARRANT AND TO DETAIN THEM UP TO THRD DAYS, AND SECRETARY OF MDFA HAS BEEN GIVEN POWER TO DETAIN PERSONS, WITHOUT RIGHT OF BAIL, UP TO ONE MONTH.

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3. COMMENT: IMPOSITION OF TOUGH ANTI-SATYAGRAHA REGULATIONS

APPEARS TO MAKE LITTLE SENSE. PREVIOUS OPPOSITION SATYAGRAHAS HAVE BEEN ONLY MIDLY SUCCESSFUL AT BEST AND, ACCORDING TO INDICATIONS WE HAVE, ANURADHAPURA WAS TO BE LAST OF THIS TYPE OF DEMONSTRATION. GSL'S PUBLIC REASONS FOR BAN ARE LAID TO ITS FEAR THAT OWN SUPPORTERS WOULD HAVE DONE VIOLENCE TO DEMONSTRATORS. STIFF PENALTIES, PARTICULARLY CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY, ARE LIKELY TO DETER MORE AFFLUENT AND TIMID "OLD GUARD" WITHIN UNP. AT SAME TIME, THEY PROVIDE ENHANCED OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNGER AND MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO CHALLENGE GOVERNMENT OPENLY, SOMETHING THEY HAVE BEEN URGING FOR SOME TIME.

VAN HOLLEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOOD SHORTAGE, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, CRIMES, POLICIES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JAN 1974  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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